



1926 Round 17 Saturday 21st August Pratten Park



Eastern Suburbs 17

def.

Western Suburbs 8

Ed RIGNEY
 Les STEEL (c)
 Nelson HARDY
 Arthur TOBY
 Hubert BYRNE
 George HARRIS
 Larry HEDGER
 George BODDINGTON
 Tom FITZPATRICK
 William IVES
 Jack WATKINS
 Arthur OXFORD
 N FITZPATRICK

Fullback
Wing
Centre
Centre
Wing
Five-eighth
Half
Lock
Second Row
Second Row
Front Row
Hooker
Front Row

Fred YANZ
 Jack REDMOND
 Cecil FIFIELD
 Eric DOIG
 Neil MATTERSON
 Jerry BRIEN
 Harry OWEN
 Jack DREW
 Roy LISTON
 Jim PARSONS
 Frank MATTERSON
 Bob LINDFIELD
 Frank SPILLANE



Tries George HARRIS (2)
 Nelson HARDY

Neil MATTERSON
 Jack REDMOND

Goals Arthur OXFORD (4)

Eric DOIG (1)

Match Description

Eastern Suburbs: Full-back, E Rigney; three-quarters, L Steel, A Toby, H Byrne, N Hardy; halves, G Harris, L Hedger; forwards, W Ives, A Oxford, J Watkins, G Boddington, N Fitzpatrick, T Fitzpatrick

Western Suburbs: Full-back, F Yanz; three-quarters, T Redmond, E Doig, C Fifield, N Matterson; halves, J Brien, H Owen; forwards, F Matterson, J Drew, R Liston, R Lindfield, F Spillane, J Parsons **Referee: J Murray**

..... Wests played better with the wind, but again bad handling spoilt good efforts by Brien and Fifield. Eventually N Matterson scored, after Yanz, Brien, and Fifield had participated, and, not long after, Redmond resolutely went across in the opposite corner. Doig landed an excellent goal, but the issue was placed beyond doubt when Hardy taking advantage of a mistake by Doig, scored between the posts. Again, Oxford goaled, and East won by 17-8 (**Sunday Times 22nd August 1926**)

Throughout the major portion of the opening half Eastern Suburbs' men kept their opponents on the defensive. Aided by the strong wind, they quickly established a lead of 12 points, although good defensive work by Western Suburbs prevented a much larger margin. Oxford, by goaling from a penalty, opened the scoring, and when Fifield dropped a pass Harris snapped up and crossed under the bar. Oxford converted. Rigney was a main factor in keeping the Westerners penned in their 25. By judicious kicking he found the open spaces, and the line, on innumerable occasions. Oxford added a further two points with a penalty goal. The next score was when N Matterson failed to gather the ball and the Easterners swept onward to the goal-line, where Harris secured his second try. Oxford failed from a difficult angle. Eastern Suburbs led by 12 points to nil at this stage. Western Suburbs attacked immediately, and the Easterners were called upon to defend. Doig had a fruitless attempt at goal from a penalty, and Hardy relieved by bursting through. Running strongly, he passed to Byrne, who was tackled by Doig. Western Suburbs forced play up-field again, and Brien began a movement which should have brought points but Matterson over-ran Yanz's transfer. Faulty handling by Fifield jolted the Western's attack on several occasions. The Eastern Suburbs forwards now returned play to their opponent's territory, and the ball came across to Hardy, who beat the defence and scored, for Oxford to convert. Eastern Suburbs 17 to nil. From this stage on Western Suburbs had much the better of the game, and ran up eight points prior to full time. (**Sydney Morning Herald 23rd August 1926**)

Western Suburbs will be without Frank McMillan today, the ex-State full-back having been injured in the match against Balmain last Saturday. The Magpies, as some compensation, will have "Pony" Redmond and H Owen back in the ranks, and with these two ex-juniors appearing at their best, Wests will take a lot of stopping if they reach the semi-final rounds. (**Rugby League News 21st August 1926**)

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Notes: McMillan's injury in the previous week meant a reshuffle with Fred Yanz going to full-back. Harry Owen (broken hand) and Jack Redmond (strained back muscle) were both coming back from injury as well. Easts were favoured by a very strong breeze in the first half and led 12-0 and 17-0 early in the second half but then Wests stormed home but were unable to bridge the gap.